AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) A method of laser marking a gemstone comprising the steps of:

(a) generating a laser pulse having a pulse duration of ~~less than~~ approximately 1 nanosecond;

(b) focusing said laser pulse onto a surface of a gemstone;

(c) displacing said surface of said gemstone with respect to said focused laser pulse along three orthogonal axes.

Claim 12 (original) The method of laser marking a gemstone as recited in Claim 11 wherein said step of displacing said surface of said gemstone with respect to aid focused laser pulse includes the translation of said gemstone with respect to said focused laser pulse along a predetermined path.

Claim 13 (Original) The method of laser marking a gemstone as recited in Claim 11 wherein said displacing of said surface of said gemstone with respect to said focused laser pulse includes a translation of focusing optics along a predetermined path.

Claims 14 - 17(Withdrawn)

Claim 18 (Original) The method of laser marking a gemstone as recited in Claim 11 wherein said step of generating a laser pulse is controlled through a computer control system in electrical communication with a pulsed laser, said computer control system allowing a user to selectively control said pulse duration.

Claim 19 (Original) The method of laser marking a gemstone as recited in Claim 12 wherein a computer control system is in electrical communication with a displacement means for displacing said gemstone, said computer control system allowing a user to selectively input and control said predetermined path.

Claim 20 (Original) The method of laser marking a gemstone as recited in Claim 13 wherein a computer control system in electrical communication with focusing optics allows a user to selectively input and control said predetermined path.